1	2	3	4
20.	Jhunjhunu	34	383
21.	Jodhpur	47	360
22.	Karaouli	8	239
23.	Kota	39	167
24.	Nagaur	27	518
25.	Pali	30	349
26.	Rajsamand	8	202
27.	Sawaimadhopur	10	206
28.	Sikar	28	441
29.	Sirohi	17	164
30.	Sriganganagar	21	312
31.	Tonk	14	207
32.	Udaipur	32	465
	TOTAL :	802	9648

Statement-II

District-wise details of Post Offices opened in 2003-04

Sl. No.	Name of Post Offices opened	Type of PO	Name of District
1.	Boheda	DSO	Chittorgarh
2.	Harshawada	EDBO	Udaipur
3.	Laka	EDBO	Days
4.	Kollar	EDBO	Udaipur
5.	Titoli	EDBO	Tonk
6.	Piproli	EDBO	Alwar

Communication facilities in North-Eastern States

203. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether lack of communication facilities has been a major drag on the developmental aspects of North-Eastern States;

(b) whether the present licensee for North-East for cellular services are indulging in restrictive trade practices by not expanding the capacity of their network and selectively seeking high-end customers for existing cellular services in Guwahati and Shillong; and

(c) whether Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. has any plans to provide cellular connectivity to North-Eastern States and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir. Communications facilities are in existence in North Eastern States. The telecom infrastructure provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited upto October, 2003 to provide communications facilities are as follows:

(1) Direct Exchange Lines	8.45 Lakhs
(2) Optical Fibre cable laid	6333 Route Kilometers
(3) Microwave Systems	9115 Route Kilometers
(4) Village Panchayat Telephones	24051 Nos.

In addition, Cellular Mobile Telephone service has also been launched by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited starting from Kohima on 27-10-2003.

(b) No, Sir. Prior to August, 2002 there was a ban on fresh start or expansion of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service in North Eastern States due to security considerations. Subsequently, the Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) Operators have planned to expand their network for provision of the service in the North Eastern States. The present license holders for North East Telecom Circle for mobile (cellular) service could not expand their services earlier on account of the ban mentioned above.

(c) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited has planned to provide cellular connectivity in North Eastern States. The details of Cellular Mobile Telephone capacity planned in each state of North Eastern Region is as below:

Sl.No.	State	Capacity (Lines)
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	14,300
2.	Assam	42,550
3.	Manipur	8,300
4.	Meghalaya	7,300
5.	Mizoram	8,300
6.	Nagaland	8,300
7.	Tripura	6,300

Reply relating to Department of Post

(a) As far as Postal facilities are concerned there are a total of 2931 Post Offices and 57 Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras (PSSKs) in the North East Region as on 31-03-2003. Though average area served per post office is 60.84 Sq. Km. as against the national average of 21.13 Sq. Km. The population served per Post Office is 4046 in the North East Region which compares favourably with the national average of 6602. Post Offices are opened subject to distance and income norms. There are relaxed norms for hilly, tribal and remote areas which are being applied in the case of North East Region.

During the Ninth Plan the Department opened 121 Post Offices and 170 PSSKs in the North East. During 2002-03, 10 Post Offices and 56 PSSKs were opened and in the current year i.e. 2003-04 the target is to open 11 Post Offices and 50 PSSKs in the North East Region.

(b) and (c) Not applicable for Department of Post.

Telephone connections in Madhya Pradesh

204. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state·

(a) the details of persons on waiting list for telephone connections in Madhya Pradesh as on the 31st October, 2003;